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Eckert

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(54) **LEASH TRAINING DEVICE AND A METHOD OF USING THE SAME TO TRAIN A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL**

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A01K 27/00	(2006.01)
A01K 15/02	(2006.01)
B05B 11/00	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***A01K 15/02*** (2013.01); ***A01K 27/004*** (2013.01); ***A01K 27/009*** (2013.01); ***B05B 11/0037*** (2013.01); ***B05B 11/3015*** (2013.01); *B05B 11/0056* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC . A01K 27/004; A01K 27/006; A01K 27/008; A01K 15/02; A61D 7/00; E01H 1/1213

USPC 119/712, 792–798, 161, 860; 222/175; 294/1.3

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A leash training device embodying a non-invasive and non-threatening method of using the same to train a dog is provided. The leash training device may include a liquid sprayer having a housing forming a handle portion and a leash assembly. While grasping the handle portion so as to manage the dog on the other end of the leash assembly, the liquid sprayer is adapted so that the user may discharge a jet of liquid from a reservoir secured within the housing. The method includes discharging the jet at or on the dog engaged in bad behavior.

8 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

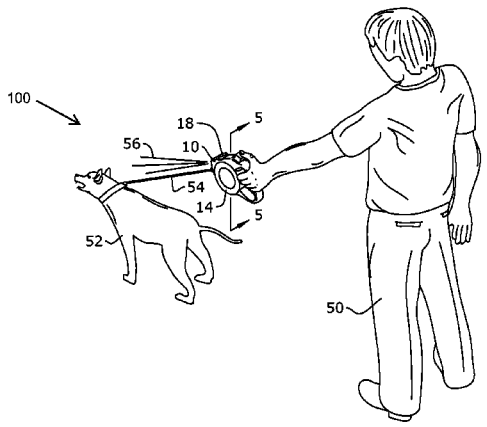

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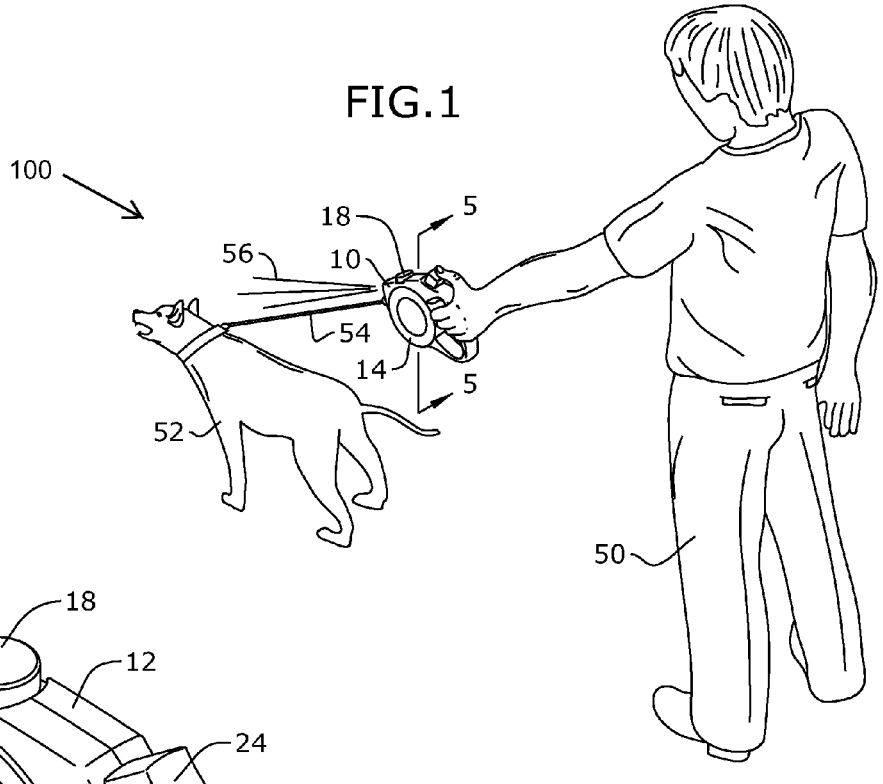
FIG.1



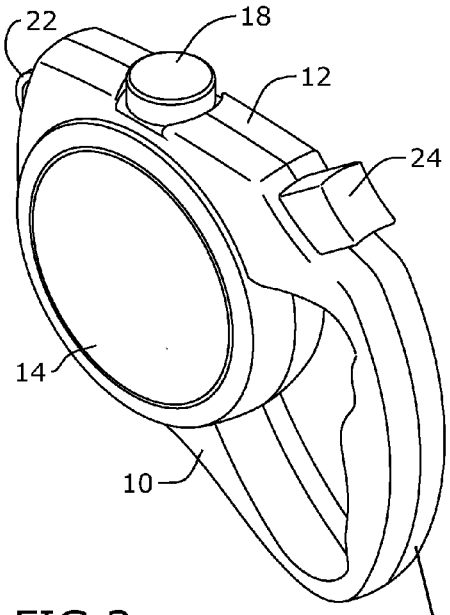


FIG.2

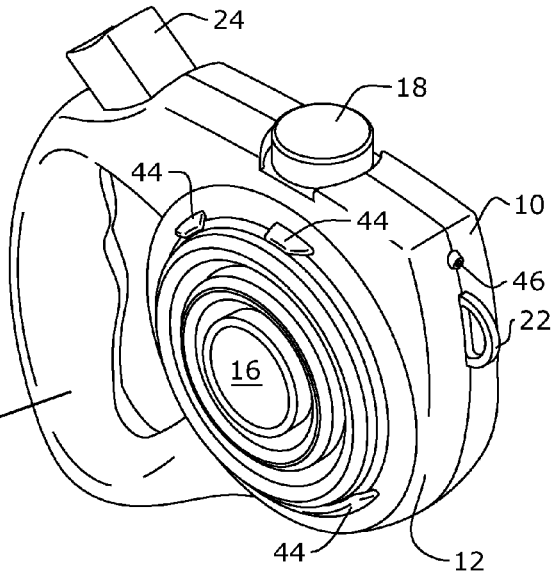


FIG.3

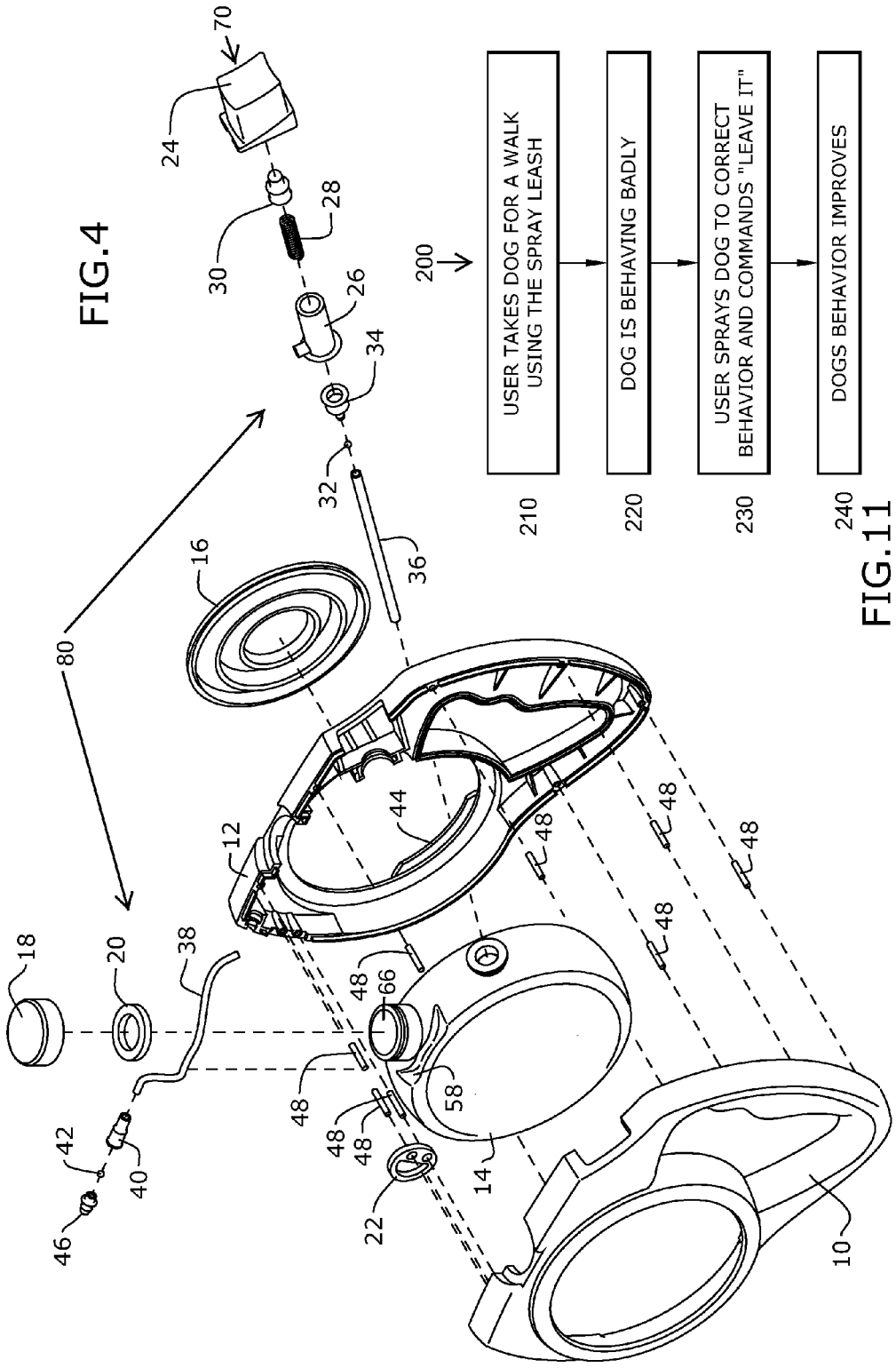

70
24
28
30
26
34
32
36
16
80
12
44
48
18
20
38
66
58
42
40
46
22
14
10

FIG.4

200
USER TAKES DOG FOR A WALK USING THE SPRAY LEASH
DOG IS BEHAVING BADLY
USER SPRAYS DOG TO CORRECT BEHAVIOR AND COMMANDS "LEAVE IT"
DOGS BEHAVIOR IMPROVES
210
220
230
240

FIG.11

FIG.5

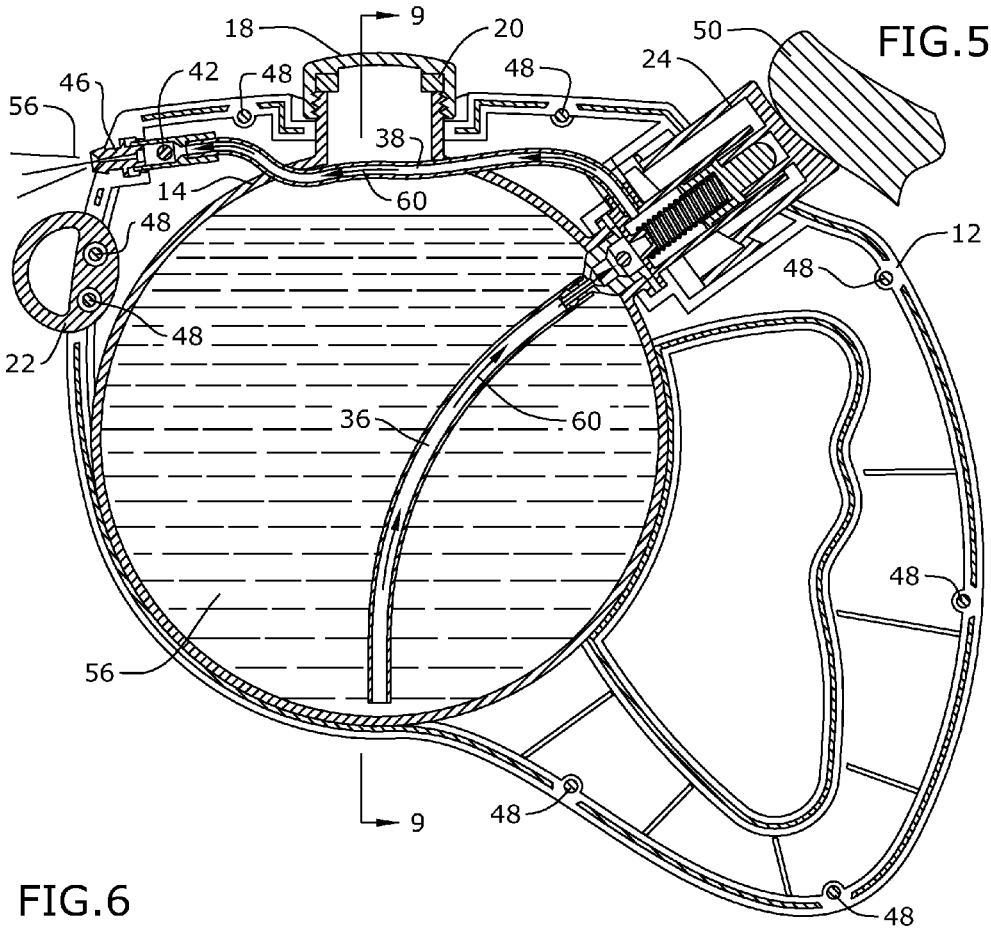


FIG.6

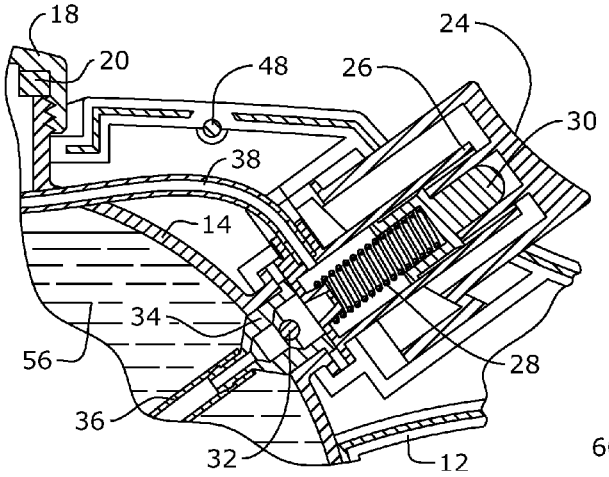


FIG.7

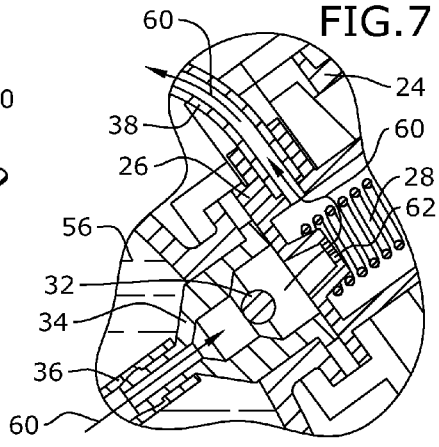
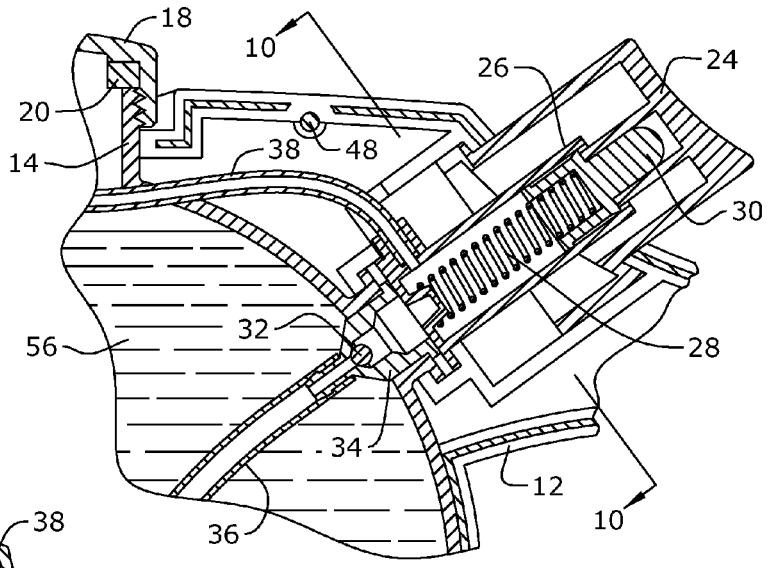


FIG.8



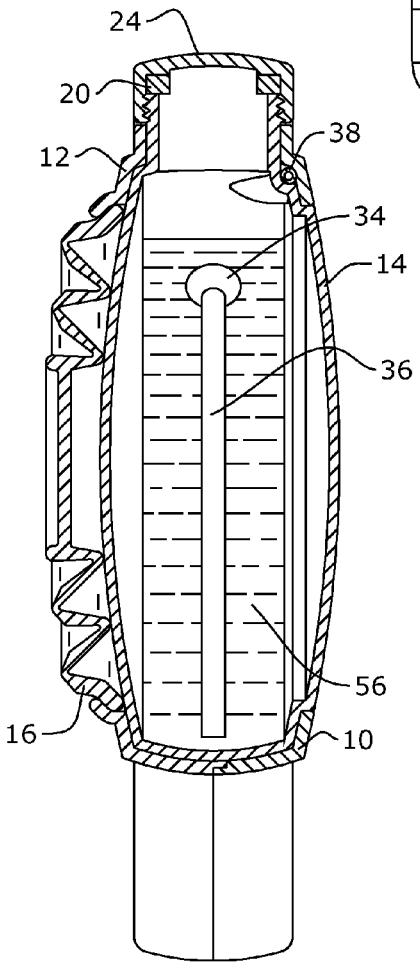


FIG.9

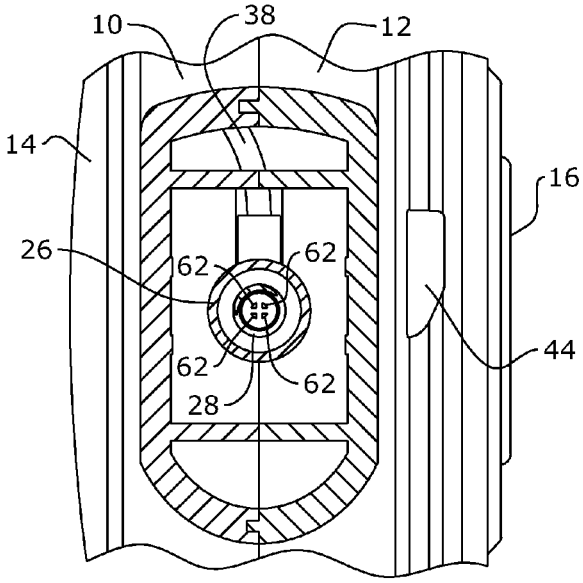


FIG.10

LEASH TRAINING DEVICE AND A METHOD OF USING THE SAME TO TRAIN A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of priority of U.S. provisional application No. 62/017,022, 25 Jun. 2014, the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the training of domesticated animals and, more particularly, to a dog leash training device and a non-invasive and non-threatening method of using the same to train a dog.

Bad dog behavior is a common issue when walking your dog. It can present many dangerous situations for the dog, bystanders, nearby property, and the dog owner, whereby personal injury, property damage and legal liability are at risk.

Current devices and methods of using them to train dogs involve choking, yanking, loud noises, electric shocks and other means that can physically and emotionally scar the dog. Giving rise to other related behavioral problems in the dog.

As can be seen, there is a need for a dog leash training device and a non-invasive and non-threatening method of using the same to train a dog.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect of the present invention, leash training device includes a housing having a front end and a rear end, wherein the housing forms an engagement opening and a handle portion; a sprayer outlet disposed near the front end; a leash assembly disposed near the front end; a reservoir secured within the engagement opening; and a liquid sprayer housed within the housing so as to fluidly communicate the sprayer outlet to the reservoir, wherein the liquid sprayer disposes a trigger near the handle portion.

In another aspect of the present invention, a method of training a domesticated animal restrained by a leash by using the above-mentioned leash training device includes filling the reservoir with a liquid; connecting the leash to the leash hook; and triggering the liquid sprayer to urge a jet of liquid from the reservoir, through the spray outlet, and toward the domesticated animal engaged in correctible behavior.

These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following drawings, description and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, shown in use;

FIG. **2** is a front perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **3** is a back perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **4** is an exploded view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **5** is a section view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, taken from **5-5** in FIG. **1**, illustrating a pressure assembly in a loaded position;

FIG. **6** is an enlarged section view of a portion of the exemplary embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **7** is an enlarged section view of a portion of the exemplary embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **8** is an enlarged section view of a portion of the exemplary embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **9** is a section view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, taken along line **9-9** in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **10** is a section view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, taken along line **10-10** in FIG. **8**; and

FIG. **11** is a flow chart of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention in use.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following detailed description is of the best currently contemplated modes of carrying out exemplary embodiments of the invention. The description is not to be taken in a limiting sense, but is made merely for the purpose of illustrating the general principles of the invention, since the scope of the invention is best defined by the appended claims.

Broadly, an embodiment of the present invention provides a leash training device embodying a non-invasive and non-threatening method of using the same to train a domesticated animal, such as a dog. The leash training device may include a liquid sprayer having a housing forming a handle portion and a leash assembly. While grasping the handle portion so as to manage the dog on the other end of the leash assembly, the liquid sprayer is adapted so that the user may discharge a jet of liquid from a reservoir secured within the housing. The method includes discharging the jet at or on the dog engaged in bad behavior.

Referring to FIGS. **1** through **10**, the present invention may include a training device **100** embodied in a method **200** for training a domesticated animal **52**, including but not limited to a house pet, such as a dog, that engages in correctible behavior and that can understand commands related thereto. The training device **100** may include a liquid sprayer **80** having a housing forming a handle portion **64** and a leash assembly **90**. The housing may be formed from the joining of a first portion **10** and a second portion **12**. The first portion **10** and the second portion **12** may be dimensioned and adapted so as to provide a plurality fastener holes that align when interconnected by a plurality of fasteners **48**. In an alternative embodiment, the housing may be formed from a unitary construction. The housing may have a front and rear ends. The handling portion **64** may be disposed near the rear end. The handle portion **64** may be dimensioned and adapted to enable a user **50** to single-handedly control the training device **10** so that it functions in accordance with the present invention as described herein.

The housing may form an engagement space dimensioned and adapted to securely engage a reservoir **14** when the housing is joined or formed. The reservoir **14** may form a cavity for receiving a liquid **56**, such as water, liquid chemicals, liquid mixtures or the like. The reservoir **14** may form at least one depression **58**. The reservoir **14** may form an inlet **66** and a spray outlet **46** for receiving and discharging the liquid **56**, respectively. A gasket **20** and a cap **18** may be dimensioned and adapted for providing a water-light seal about the inlet **66**. The spray outlet **46** may be adapted to discharge a liquid flow **60** under pressure. The spray outlet **46** may be disposed toward the front end of the housing.

The housing may form a plurality of attachment lips **44**. The plurality of attachment lips **44** may be dimensioned and adapted to removably secure a flex bowl **16** provided by the

present invention. The flex bowl **16** may therefore be used to receive the liquid **56** for providing to the domesticated animal **52**.

The liquid sprayer **80** may include a pressure assembly **70**. The pressure assembly **70** may include a trigger **24**, a pump body **26**, a spring **28**, a plunger **30**, an in-valve ball **32**, an in-valve **34** and a tube **36** operably interconnected, as illustrated FIGS. **4** through **8**, so as to urge the liquid flow **60** through the liquid sprayer **80** under pressure. The pump body **26** forms a chamber dimensioned and adapted to support the interconnected spring **28** and the plunger **30** and a portion of the liquid **56**. The pump body **26** may form a pump ingress for receiving and a pump egress for discharging the liquid flow **60**. The tube **36** may extend from the pump ingress and further into the cavity of the reservoir **14**.

The plunger **30** may act as a piston movable from a loaded position to an unloaded position by manually exerting and releasing, respectively, force on the interconnected trigger **24**. Exerting force on the trigger **24** urges the plunger **30** to apply pressure the portion of the liquid **56** within the chamber, as illustrated in FIG. **5**, causing the liquid **56** to flow out the spray outlet **46** as a jet or spray of the liquid **56**. Upon the user **50** releasing the trigger **24**, a suction motion draws a new portion of the liquid **56** from the reservoir **14** cavity, through the tube **36**, through the in-valve **34**, through a plurality of flow holes **62** and into the recently discharged chamber as the spring **28** urges the plunger **30** back toward its unloaded position. In the unloaded position, and as the plunger moves toward the loaded position, the in-valve ball **32** is dimensioned and adapted to seal the in-valve **34** so that the new portion of the liquid is prevented from flowing into the tube **36**. The trigger **24** is disposed near the handle portion **64**.

The pump egress may be operably interconnected to the spray outlet **46** by spray tube **38**, an out-valve **40**, and an out-valve ball **42** dimensioned and adapted to discharge the flow of liquid **60**, under pressure, from the pump egress and out the spray outlet **46** as a jet or spray of liquid **56**. In effect, the spray outlet, via the liquid sprayer **80**, is in fluid communication with the reservoir **14**.

The leash assembly **90** may be disposed near the front end of the housing. The leash assembly **90** may include a leash hook **22** for removably connecting a dog leash **54** thereto. In certain embodiments, the leash assembly **90** may include a retractable leash system or any other known leash system known in the art for leashing a walking dog.

Referring to FIG. **11**, a method of using the present invention may include the following. The user **50** may connect the dog **52** to the leash assembly **90**, in step **210**. In step **220**, the dog **52** engages in bad behavior. Then, in step **230**, the user **50** discharges a jet of liquid **56** at or near the dog **52**. In certain embodiments, step **230** is done in conjunction with a command. The command may be "leave it" or some other functional command understood by the dog **52** to cease such behavior. In step **240**, the dog **52** improves their behavior.

It should be understood, of course, that the foregoing relates to exemplary embodiments of the invention and that modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of training a domesticated animal restrained by a leash, comprising the steps of:

providing a leash training device comprising:

a housing having a front end and a rear end, wherein the housing houses a liquid sprayer;

a sprayer outlet disposed near the front end, wherein the spray outlet is fluidly communicating with the liquid sprayer;

a handle portion disposed near the rear end, wherein the handle portion provides a trigger for selectively engaging the liquid sprayer; and

a leash assembly disposed near the front end;

filling the liquid sprayer with a non-threatening liquid;

interconnecting the leash between the domesticated animal and the leash assembly; and

selectively triggering the liquid sprayer to urge a jet of the non-threatening liquid through the spray outlet toward the domesticated animal when it is engaged in correctible behavior.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the jet of liquid hits the domesticated animal.

3. The method of claim **1**, further comprising the step of uttering a command around the time of the correctible behavior.

4. The method of claim **3**, wherein the command is "leave it".

5. The method of claim **1**, wherein the non-threatening liquid is water.

6. The method of claim **1**, wherein the correctible behavior is a common issue when walking the domesticated animal.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the domesticated animal is a pet dog.

8. A method of training a domesticated animal restrained by a leash, comprising the steps of:

providing a leash training device comprising:

a sprayer outlet disposed at a front end of the leash training device, wherein the spray outlet is adapted to spray a non-threatening liquid housed therein; and

a leash assembly disposed near the sprayer outlet;

interconnecting the leash between the domesticated animal and the leash assembly; and

selectively spraying the non-threatening liquid through the spray outlet toward the domesticated animal when it is engaged in correctible behavior.

* * * * *